

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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S/S - MR. LUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV, MAY 22,

--- 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM KING

1. NONE OF TUESDAY EVENING NETWORK TV PROGRAMS CARRIED
DIRECT REPORTS FROM THE PARTY AND ONLY CRONKITE MADE
REFERENCE TO THE NEGOTIATING EFFORTS.

2. FOLLOWING ARE KALB AND ANDERSON SPOTS MONITORED
WEDNESDAY MORNING:

A. KALB (CBS RADIO): KISSINGER IS HUMAN AFTER ALL, HE IS
BEGINNING TO LOOK TIRED AND HIS VOICE IS GETTING HOARSE
AND HE IS FINDING OUT THAT THERE ARE ONLY TWENTY FOUR
HOURS IN A DAY. BUT THE SHUTTLE GOES ON AS THE SECRETARY
SEEMS TO BE STRUGGLING TO COMPLETE THIS NEGOTIATION BY
THIS WEEKEND, A DISENGAGEMENT OF SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES
ON THE GOLAN FRONT. LAST WEEKEND'S OPTIMISM HAS FADED
AS KISSINGER FINDS NEGOTIATING WITH ASAD A PARTICULARLY
TOUGH CHORE. THERE IS NOW A POSSIBILITY THAT KISSINGER WILL
NOT BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE AGREEMENT BY THIS WEEKEND, HIS
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PERSONAL DEADLINE FOR GOING HOME. FOR EXAMPLE, LAST

SATURDAY HE THOUGHT HE HAD ASAD'S AGREEMENT TO THE LINE OF
DISENGAGEMENT, ON MONDAY ASAD SHIFTED GROUND, KISSINGER

HAD TO SPEND MOST OF HIS FIVE HOURS WITH ASAD YESTERDAY
GETTING BACK TO WHERE HE WAS LAST SATURDAY, THAT DELAYED
EVERYTHING ELSE -- THE SIZE OF A UN FORCE AMONG OTHER
THINGS. ISRAEL WANTS A SUBSTANTIAL FORCE OF ABOUT
THREE THOUSAND UN TROOPS, SYRIA WANTS ONLY SEVERAL
HUNDRED. THIS MUST BE RESOLVED. SAME FOR THE NATURE OF A
THINNED OUT ZONE, HOW MUCH FIREPOWER AND MANPOWER WILL BE
ALLOWED IN IT. EACH ISSUE TAKES TIME AND KISSINGER IS
FIGHTING THE CLOCK AND TRYING TO ADJUST THE HISTORY OF
SUSPICION BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL TO THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS
OF DISENGAGEMENT.

B. ANDERSON (GROUP W NEWS - RADIO) FROM JERUSALEM:
AFTER FIVE MORE HOURS OF TALKS WITH PRESIDENT ASAD OF
SYRIA KISSINGER SAID THAT SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE BUT MORE
NEGOTIATING IS REQUIRED.

--- KISSINGER -- THE PRESIDENT AND I CONTINUED OUR
DETAILED EXAMINATION OF ALL THE ELEMENTS OF THE DISENGAGE-
MENT AGREEMENT. PROGRESS WAS MADE IN TWO AREAS. I
AM GOING TO RETURN TO DAMASCUS TOMORROW FOR FURTHER TALKS.

--- ANDERSON: KISSINGER SOUNDED AND LOOKED TIRED AFTER
HIS SUCCESSION OF EIGHTEEN HOUR DAYS AND THE DEAL IS
OBVIOUSLY NOT IN THE BAG YET, AND GIVEN THE BACKGROUND
OF BITTERNESS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA NOTHING CAN BE
TAKEN FOR GRANTED. HOWEVER, A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
SAYS THAT THE MOST DIFFICULT SUBJECT, THE CEASEFIRE LINE,
IS VIRTUALLY SETTLED.

3. IN SEVERAL OTHER RADIO ACCOUNTS AND ONE TV SPOT
WEDNESDAY MORNING, KALB EMPLOYS SIMILAR LANGUAGE TO
CONVEY SAME SPIRIT-DAMPENING TONE. RUSH

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